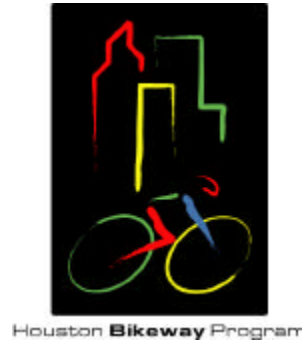


# City of Houston Bikeway Program

## Community Benefits

March 4, 2002



The City of Houston is implementing a bikeway network consisting of over 380 miles of on-street and off-street bikeways and linear parks across the city. The majority of the on-street segments have been completed. The off-street segments are multi-use paths on linear parks along bayous, abandoned railroads or green space. Over 200 miles of mostly on-street segments have been completed and the remaining 180 miles of mostly off-street trail are moving forward into design and construction.

The goal is to complete the remaining bikeways, linear parkways, and landscaped enhancements completed by December 2003. To do this, we are accelerating the design process by conducting tasks concurrently, and working closely with all agencies involved to expedite the process.

Education is an important part of the Houston Bikeway Program. Together with the City of Houston Police Department's Bike Patrol Administration, we provide safety education for children and adults.

Users quickly incorporate the use of the bikeway network it into their lifestyle as a means of expanding their transportation options, and for fitness and recreational use.

**WEB:** A comprehensive website helps promote the bikeway network and increase awareness. Regular hits request maps, route information, provide maintenance reports, and allow current and prospective residents to learn about this important quality of life amenity in Houston.

**SUPPORT:** A bikeway network map is available to support citizens who want to explore the bikeways. The bike-parking program provides bike racks at city facilities for public use at parks, libraries and other public buildings.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** A partnership with Houston Community College created an opportunity to produce video education material. Our program logo was developed through a project with the Art Institute of Houston. These projects allow local students to participate in community projects that help boost their experience and career.

**QUALITY OF LIFE:** Across America, major cities have incorporated the development of bikeways to bring a quality of life aspect into the community that residents want: environmentally responsible transportation alternatives and added green space to enjoy a moment of respite or time with the family.



## BENEFITS:

Access to over 380 miles of on-street and off-street bikeways that span from Clay Road at Beltway 8 to Old Galveston Road, and from Halls Bayou to Keegans Bayou.

Over 100 miles of linear parks for Houston.

Increased bicycle and pedestrian travel and recreational opportunities along designated bikeways.

Connections to METRO bus routes serving the community.

Increased property values in neighborhoods with hike and bike trails have been experienced across the country in cities such as Seattle, San Diego, Boston, Chicago, and Austin.

Beautification and enhanced visibility improve neighborhood security and allow better access to the Houston Bike Patrol.

- *"Trails have provided a new transportation alternative for bicyclists and pedestrians in a safe and aesthetic environment. Trails bring improved visibility along bayous and abandoned railways. Communities benefit."*

*C.O. Bradford, Police Chief  
City of Houston*

Fitness and recreation is easier when facilities are readily available. Bikeways make it easier for Houstonians to access trails for recreation or relaxation.

Walking and cycling are economic transportation alternative considered by people across the world. Bikeways make it easier to consider healthier modes of transportation that save money to boot.



Parking real estate is a commodity. Availability of a bikeway network promotes walking and cycling, reducing the need for parking demands.

People are more concerned with environmental issues in their community. Given the opportunity, many people opt for environmentally correct transportation alternatives if they are accessible.

*The 1990 census data indicates that walking or cycling results in 2.6% of the travel trips. Recent studies show that 1 out of 5 Texans relies on walking or cycling as their sole mode of transportation. The maximum trip length by pedestrians is ½ mile, 2 miles for cyclists. Transportation studies show that 20% of the trips are 2 miles or less.*



or clients searching for a new house or apartment.

Universities and schools of higher learning recognize the benefits to schools and the student body. They actively pursue projects that will provide direct connections to their campus.

*University of Nebraska  
Minnesota State University  
University of Michigan  
University of North Carolina  
Cornell University  
Rider University  
Virginia Tech  
Kings College  
Southern Mississippi University  
Washington State University  
University of Idaho  
Princeton University*

Adopt-a-trail programs successfully integrate trails into their communities. Trails are great opportunities to provide a community venue to support the arts, beautification, and overall camaraderie among neighbors.

In recent studies across the country, bikeways and hike and bike trails have gained ground on amenities chosen when selecting places to live. This choice has now surpassed golf courses, the former amenity of choice.

Realtors, property managers and developers recognize the benefits of direct access to bikeways and trails, and actively promote their availability to new homebuyers







## A Message From Mayor Brown

*“The Houston Bikeway Network is important to our quality of life. Many residents want transportation alternatives, and the Bikeway Network provides Houstonians the opportunity to travel to work or school, while also providing opportunities for recreation and fitness. The linear parks our trails provide offer beauty and respite within our neighborhoods. Some trails take advantage of the natural beauty of our bayous as well. The accelerated completion of the Bikeway Program will allow us to complete our goal to create these opportunities for our citizens. I invite you to explore our bikeways and reconnect with your community and neighbors.”*

Mayor Lee P. Brown

All bikeways are maintained by the City of Houston. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains completed linear parks and trails and incorporates them into the park system. Call 3-1-1 to report maintenance requests.

The Texas Department of Transportation funds the major portion of projects that beautify and promote transportation alternatives in the community through transportation enhancement and congestion mitigation air quality funds. The Houston region recently received \$35M for enhancement projects this year.

As one of the top cities in the nation, Houston has increased transportation options, and opportunities for recreation through the Houston bikeway network. The time is right to participate in the development of this network and take advantage of the potential benefits it can offer you.

